

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 03072 200953Z

11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 FBO-01 A-01 EUR-25 PRS-01 PA-04 DRC-01

/070 W

----- 000431

R 191652Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8094

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 3072

PASS USIA FOR IAA MCGINLEY

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, AFSP, IV

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, APRIL 18

I - ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW CULTURAL CENTER

REF: ABIDJAN 3073

1. IN VIEW CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES RECENTLY ENCOUNTERED IN OBTAINING GOIC APPROVAL FOR A NEW CULTURAL CENTER IN COCODY, AS WELL AS FOR USING A RENTED VILLA IN THAT AREA FOR AN INTERIM CENTER, I REQUESTED AN AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET, AND WAS GRATIFIED TO RECEIVE AN APPOINTMENT WITHIN 24 HOURS.

2. ACCORDINGLY, ACCOMPANIED BY THE PAO, I CALLED THURSDAY AT 1700 HRS ON THE PRESIDENT AT HIS COCODY RESIDENCE. I BRIEFLY OUTLINED THE PAST HISTORY AND UNDERLYING MOTIVATIONS OF USIS' SEARCH FOR A NEW CENTER IN COCODY, AND EXPRESSED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION HAD AT THE LAST MINUTE RAISED OBJECTIONS TO BUILDING OUR CENTER ON THE SITE PROPOSED BY THE PARA-STATAL CONSTRUCTION FIRM SICOGI. I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT UNTIL WE RECEIVED OFFICIAL APPROVAL FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF OUR INTENTION TO USE THE VILLA IN COCODY AS A TEMPORARY CENTER, WE WERE NATURALLY RELUCTANT TO SIGN A LEASE, AND, MORE PARTICULARLY, TO PAY ONE YEAR'S ADVANCE RENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ABIDJA 03072 200953Z

3. PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET SHOWED HIMSELF EXTREMELY SYMPATHETIC TO OUR PROBLEM. HE IMMEDIATELY GAVE PERMISSION FOR US TO USE THE VILLA AS A TEMPORARY CULTURAL CENTER. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS APPROVAL OF OUR INTENTION TO LOCATE CENTER PERMANENTLY IN COCODY AND PROMISED PERSONALLY TO LOOK INTO THE SICOGI PROJECT THE FOLLOWING DAY. HE INDICATED THAT IF FOR SOME REASON THE SICOGI LOCATION WAS NOT FEASIBLE, HE WOULD MAKE ANOTHER SUITABLE SITE AVAILABLE TO US. HE ALSO EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN MAINTAINING AND STRENGTHENING IVORIAN CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS -- NAMELY, THE US, FRANCE, GERMANY AND CANADA.

4. COMMENT: MY DECISION TO SEEK AN AUDIENCE WITH HOUPHOUET SO SOON AFTER PRESENTLY MY CREDENTIALS -- ESPECIALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REQUESTING HIS ASSISTANCE -- WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT TAKEN LIGHTLY. IT WOULD APPEAR, HOWEVER, THAT BY ADDRESSING OURSELVES DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT WE HOPEFULLY HAVE CUT THROUGH A GORDIAN SNARL OF RED-TAPE AND INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL JEALOUSIES THAT THREATENED TO SERIOUSLY DELAY, IF NOT TOTALLY BLOCK, THE ALREADY DRAWN-OUT PROJECT OF RELOCATING OUR CULTURAL CENTER.
SMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, CULTURAL CENTERS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ABIDJA03072
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740093-0050
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740431/aaaabbcm.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ABIDJAN 3073
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, APRIL 18 I - ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW CULTURAL CENTER
TAGS: PGOV, AFSP, SCUL, IV, (HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELIX)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005